

## **5.0 SECTION 4(f) EVALUATION**

The Section 4(f) Evaluation was developed as part of preparing the I-355 South Extension, Final Environmental Impact Statement and Section 4(f) Evaluation (1996 FEIS) completed in 1996. This section only addresses substantive changes occurring to the Section 4(f) resources since publication of the 1996 FEIS. In the case where no substantive change has occurred, the reader is referred to the [1996 FEIS, Chapter 5.0](#).

### **5.1 Description of Recommended Action**

There have been no changes to the Recommended Action, refer to the [1996 FEIS, Section 5.1](#).

### **5.2 Description of Section 4(f) Properties**

Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 (49 U.S.C. 303) protects any publicly-owned park, recreation area, or wildlife and waterfowl refuge, or a historic site of national, state, or local significance. Impacts to the following Section 4(f) properties are anticipated as a result of implementing the Build Alternatives presented:

- Black Partridge Forest Preserve
- Black Partridge Nature Preserve
- Centennial Trail
- Higinbotham Woods
- Illinois & Michigan (I&M) Canal
- Keepataw Forest Preserve
- Lemont Centennial Park
- Lustron House
- Pilcher Park
- Spring Creek Preserve/Greenway
- Veteran's Memorial Woods
- Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve
- Wood Ridge Forest Preserve (formerly Lemont Woods)

The Section 4(f) properties in the Project Corridor have not changed except for the Lustron House and the Spring Creek Preserve/Greenway (See Exhibit 5-1). Following is a description of the status of the Lustron House, Homer Township Open Space and the Spring Creek Preserve/Greenway. For a discussion of the other Section 4(f) properties not discussed below, refer to the [1996 FEIS, Section 5.2](#).

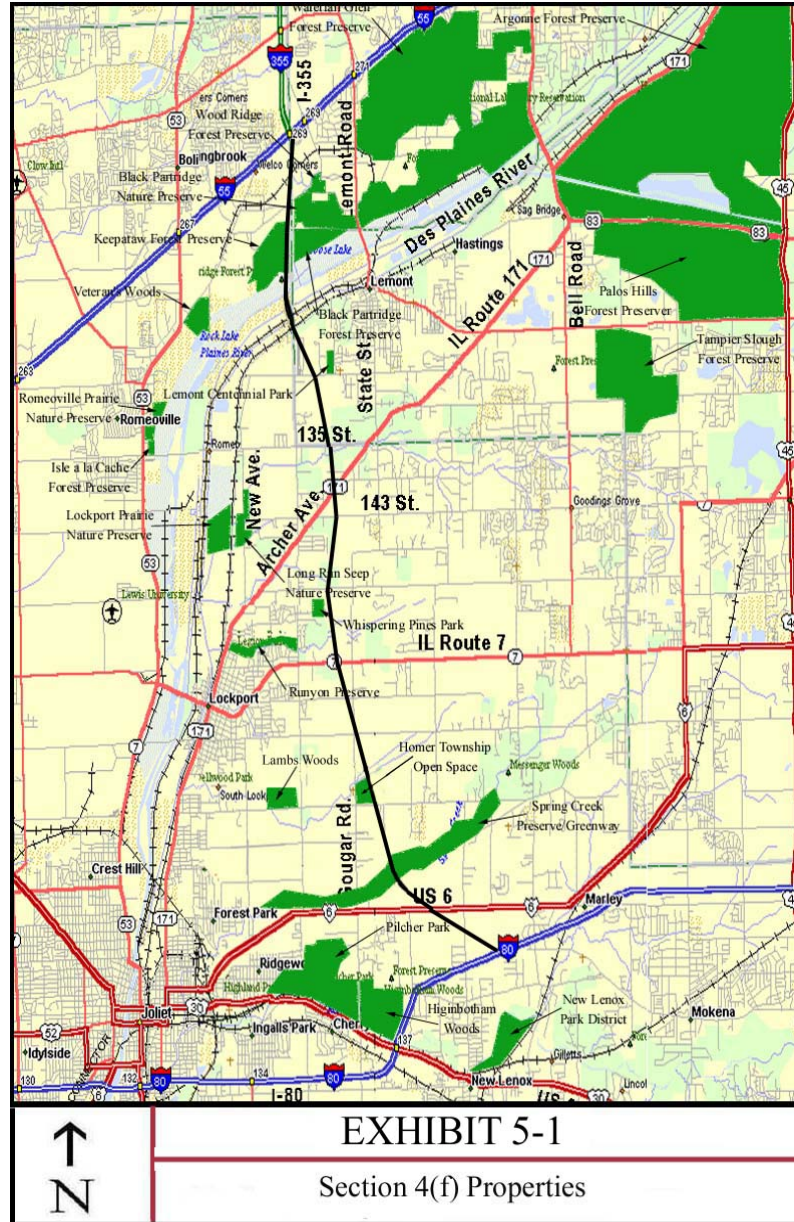
#### **5.2.1 Lustron House**

The Lustron House was an architecturally significant historic building located on 135th Street. A prefabricated, metal structure identified as a "Lustron" House was located on 135th Street in Section 6 of Homer Township within the proposed right-of-way for the

Preferred Alternative. The Lustron House was determined to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and a copy of the Determination of Eligibility (DOE) letter dated February 3, 1992 is included in [Appendix B of the 1996 FEIS \(under Illinois Historic Preservation Agency\)](#). The fact that it was eligible for listing made Section 4(f) property. Subsequent to the initial Record of Decision for the action, the Lustron House was razed.

### 5.2.2 Homer Township Open Space

A referendum was passed in Homer Township during November 1998 to allot approximately, \$8 million for the purchase of open space in Homer Township. The intent of the referendum was to allow parts of Homer Township to maintain its rural atmosphere in the midst of the growing residential and industrial



development. Approximately 25.5 hectares (63 acres) of land located at the northeast corner of Gougar Road and Bruce Road (175<sup>th</sup> Street) have been purchased using this money. The open space is bordered to the east by the R.O.W currently owned by the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority. The property is not intended to be developed, and will remain as it currently exists. FHWA has determined that, since the land currently has no facilities on it, and there are no plans to construct any facilities for public recreation or for wildlife management, the Homer Township Open Space does not meet the definition of Section 4(f) property.